

LARES Recommendations as selected by County Council Working Group

| No. | LARES Recommendation | Strategies | Lead | Status | Notes | Timeline | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---------|-------------|---|----------------------|
| Community Planning (CP-2) | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Advocate for change or clarification of the NM Anti-Donation Clause to allow local governments to provide incentives for energy reduction projects. | 1.1 | Research summary from legislations | CMO | Complete | Reviewed Summary of For & Against the Constitutional amendments proposed by the legislature in 2021 and 2022. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 1.2 | Identify potential partners and advocates for anti donation clause to allow local governments to provide incentives for energy reduction projects | CMO | Complete | Have identified potential advocates for enactment of amendment. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 1.3 | Begin discussions with our state legislative delegation to identify advocates for amendment | CMO | Complete | Have begun discussions with state legislative delegation to identify advocates for amendment enactment. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 1.4 | Explore using sustainability criteria in Metropolitan Redevelopment Area plans | CMO | Complete | The MRA is a designated area that allows for the county to partner with the private sector on projects. It doesn't contemplate sustainability in and of itself. It's up to the county as to how to incorporate sustainability in the projects it chooses to support. WR has been designated and LAC is in the process of designating an area in the townsites. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 1.5 | Explore how other municipalities are using LEDA and HUD to provide incentives for energy reduction projects. | CMO/CDD | In Progress | Have identified one municipality and will continue to identify how and if others are able to provide incentives. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | Community Planning (CP-3) | | | | | |
| 2 | Educate property owners on potential energy-saving renovations to their buildings. | 2.1 | Identify potential partners and gaps to supplement existing County programming. | CMO/DPU | Complete | Commercial businesses and multifamily home owners/tenants have been identified as those that require focused outreach and education. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 2.2 | Enhance existing educational outreach plan(s) and contract(s) that target residential and commercial property owners on potential energy-saving improvements to their buildings. | CMO/DPU | Ongoing | Education and outreach are ongoing; however, enhancing outreach plans are in progress. Plans to hire experts to provide a workshop in Inflation Reduction Act - Tax Rebates and Savings are in the works. DPU has outlined a program in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Sustainable Chamber-type certification. This program will allow interested businesses to improve their efficiency in four areas: water, energy, waste management, and climate action. Water and energy areas are rolling out first as a trial program. Expansions to the existing DIY Energy Assessment (originally designed to be used with the thermal cameras, but can also be used as a standalone) are under exploration. One possible avenue will be focused on house-specific type of improvements. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 2.3 | Purchase additional DIY energy audit tools such as thermal cameras | CMO/DPU | Complete | DPU is purchasing an additional 7 thermal cameras and two tablets (for larger viewing) to use for programming. The public libraries have 5 cameras in rotation as part of the Library of Things and these items experienced significant use during the fall/winter of 2023-2024. DPU will also purchase appliance vent cleaning kits to help maintain the efficiency of harder to clean appliances, like refrigerator coils and dryer vents. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 2.3 | [DPU input: DPU's Conservation Coordinator's role includes continual community education, as outlined in the Water and Energy Conservation Plan, an ever evolving home efficiency measures and improvements that are appropriate for a wide range of home types and occupant needs. These measures are not focused only on those with large | CMO/DPU | Complete | DPU is purchasing an additional 7 thermal cameras and two tablets (for larger viewing) to use for programming. The public libraries have 5 cameras in rotation as part of the Library of Things and these items experienced significant use during the fall/winter of 2023-2024. DPU will also purchase appliance vent cleaning kits to help maintain the efficiency of harder to clean appliances, like refrigerator coils and dryer vents. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| Community Planning (CP-4) | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Strengthen the County's environmental purchasing policy. | 3.1 | Explore four (4) established environmental preferable purchasing policies and use as a framework to strengthen the County's environmental purchasing policy. | ASD/CMO | In Progress | Initial exploration has begun. Staff is contact with other organizations that have implemented similar policies. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 3.2 | Based on Climate Action Plan results - focus on goods/services with greatest potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. | ASD | On Hold | Pending final climate action plan. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| General Recommendation (GR-7) | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Form a partnership with LANL and the Los Alamos Public Schools with the specific intention of collaboration on greenhouse gas reduction | 4.1 | Offer to form a working group with LAPS and identify areas where LAC can collaborate and/or provide support to reduce GHG emissions. | CMO | Complete | Initiated meetings with LAPS to discuss opportunities for collaboration and formation of a working group. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 4.2 | Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with LANL and obtain routine updates regarding GHG reduction initiatives. | CMO | Complete | Initiated meetings with LANL to discuss opportunities for collaboration and formation of a working group. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 4.3 | Identify opportunities for outreach and education for County, LANL and LAPS initiatives | CMO | Complete | Initiated meetings with LANL and LAPS to discuss opportunities for collaboration, formation of a working group as well as outreach and education. | Short (<6 months) |
| Natural Gas (NG-6) | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Set a cut-off date for new natural gas hook-ups and new electric resistance heating installations, effectively requiring electric heat pumps. Encourage substitution of heat pumps when gas-fired furnaces and boilers are replaced. | 5.1 | Monitor recent federal case law which determined that local governments are prohibited from banning new natural gas hook-ups. | CDD | On Hold | Currently following Federal Court , which finds this rule to be illegal because federal rule preempts local entities to make this this rule. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 5.2 | Conduct comparative analysis of alternative environmental sustainable building codes. | CDD | Complete | Staff have researched environmental sustainable, energy efficient, building codes including Santa Fe County (HERS rating), City of Santa Fe (HERS rating), Taos County, and City of Seattle (Building Energy Performance Standards). Next steps are to present to Council. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 5.3 | Present findings to County Council for consideration. | CDD | On Hold | Once completed will present findings to Council. | Short (<6 months) |
| Natural Gas (NG-11) | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Make energy audits and other relevant information available to property owners through County government. | 6.1 | During FY25 budget hearings request funding to hire a professional contractor to provide energy audit services. *Action Items in CP-3 will also include energy saving education for property owners and DIY energy audit tools provided by the County. | CMO | Complete | During FY25 budget cycle, Council approved \$100k to solicit for a qualified contractor to provide energy audit services (50-100 homes). Staff will begin formal solicitation process. We have learned that there are only 8 certified energy auditors in NM. | Short (<6 months) |

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| Transportation and Mobility (TM-3) | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Increase publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure. | 7.1 | Seek out potential partners and strategic locations for installing Level 1 or 2 electric vehicle charging stations. | DPU/PW | Complete | Several locations on County property have been identified as prime locations for initial deployment of EV Charging Infrastructure. During FY25 budget cycle, Council approved \$550k to deploy 13 EV Chargers. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 7.2 | During FY25 budget cycle, request funds for an RFP solicitation to design and implement an EV charging infrastructure plan for our community, addressing both infrastructure and capacity. | DPU/PW | Complete | During FY25 budget cycle, Council approved \$400k to develop an electric vehicle charging infrastructure plan encompassing design and deployment and also develop a fleet conversion plan. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 7.3 | Establish an EV working group to accelerate the development of charging infrastructure and transition plan. | DPU/PW | Complete | Staff from across the County are collaborating to work on EV Charging Infrastructure and Transition Plan | Short (<6 months) |
| Transportation and Mobility (TM-4) | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Increase the number of electric vehicles in the County fleet by at least two per year, eventually making 100% of light duty (passenger cars and trucks) plug-in electric. | 8.1 | County Fleet and Transit Divisions are developing a scope of work for a Fleet Conversion and Transit Conversion studies to include an evaluation of expanding charging capabilities at county buildings. Fleet to include a funding request for a Fleet Conversion Study as part of the FY25 budget | DPU/PW | Complete | During FY25 budget cycle, Council approved \$400k to develop an electric vehicle charging infrastructure plan encompassing design and deployment and also develop a fleet conversion plan. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 8.2 | As part of the FY25 Fleet Replacement Plan and FY25 Budget Cycle, Fleet has evaluated and scheduled two fleet replacements with electric vehicles in consultation with the using departments/divisions. | PW | Complete | Fleet has identified two DPU gas powered vehicles that will be replaced with electric vehicles. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 8.3 | Continue to pursue carbon free energy projects. | DPU/PW | Ongoing | In March 2024, LAC approved an agreement for a large, 170 MW Foxtail Flats Solar and Battery Energy Storage System in San Juan County, that will double the amount of clean energy and will come online in 2026. | Short (<6 months) |
| Transportation and Mobility (TM-5) | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Revise and implement a County-wide "no idling" policy with shaded parking options. | 9.1 | Review current policy and revise with input from DPU Manager and PW Director | DPU/PW | Complete | Policy has been revised and awaiting approval | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 9.2 | Develop and implement educational campaign to promote -no idling benefits. | CMO | Pending | The education campaign will consist of several key elements including an announcement email to all employees, flyer, custom sun visors for all County fleet vehicles, awareness sticker for all County vehicles. Once the policy has been approved, the education campaign items will be completed and launched to all County employees. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 9.3 | Integrate "No-idling policy" into County trainings. | CMO | Pending | Once approved the policy will be integrated into new employee orientation and defensive driving training. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 9.4 | Investigate shaded parking as part of EV infrastructure i.e. solar powered EV chargers. | DPU/PW | On Hold | Will consider shaded parking as part of the EV Charging Infrastructure plan development. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| Transportation and Mobility (TM-9) | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Convert municipal small engines, lawn/garden equipment, and golf carts, to be fossil fuel free within ten years. | 10.1 | Continue pilot for municipal small engine and lawn garden equipment to determine pros and cons. | CSD/PW | In Progress | Pros: The equipment is easy to use and maintain. Fewer parts than an internal combustion engine and may be repaired easier. Less pollution generation compared to combustion engines. Weed eaters and chainsaws weigh less than traditional gas powered systems. Cons: The battery powered equipment is limited in use in time due to battery performance. Hotter days reduce the battery at a higher rate. Ability to store batteries during work assignments is a challenge. Charging stations to accommodate large battery use. Cost of batteries is high (over time this may decline or increase). | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 10.2 | Develop transition plan for municipal small engines to be fossil fuel free within ten years | CSD/PW | On Hold | Staff are currently conducting pilot for municipal small engine and lawn garden equipment including chainsaw, blower, weed eater and trimmers. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| | | 10.3 | Currently in design phase for infrastructure needs to charge and store 60+ electric golf carts. Golf carts estimated delivery is 2025. | CSD/PW | In Progress | LAC is utilizing on call vendors for the entire process in hopes of streamlining the timeline. Design should take a couple months with construction following being completed by the anticipated delivery date of the new fleet in March 2025. | Medium (6-12 months) |
| Waste Consumption Natural Resources (WCNR-2) | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Reduce consumption-associated greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable purchasing and consumption/disposal of food, goods, and services | 11.1 | Through education, outreach, and community engagement, the County will create an online resource to help residents reduce their carbon footprints and expand the "Save the Food" campaign to reduce food waste. | CMO/PW | Complete | The online resource to help residents reduce their carbon footprints is complete. Staff will continue to work on expanding the "Save the Food" campaign to reduce food waste | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 11.2 | Partner with Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance (former Zero Waste Team) on education, outreach and community engagement. | CMO | Complete | The Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance continues to support this initiative by sharing information at County events. Most recent events include Earth Day, DPU Water Festival, and Leadership Los Alamos Environmental Day. | Short (<6 months) |
| | | 11.3 | Submit budget option to enable solicitation of contract services for education, marketing and outreach for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. | CMO | Complete | During FY25 budget cycle, Council approved \$80k to solicit for educational, marketing, and outreach services focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. | Short (<6 months) |